

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – DECEMBER 9, 2015
CITY HALL, SISTER CITIES

ATTENDANCE

Present

Natnael Adere	J. Glenn Hopkins	Joyce Rawlings
Gisselle Brown	Mike Mackey	Anthony R. Smith
William Campbell	Tammy Mann	Kendallee Walker
Councilman John Chapman	Gwen Mullen	Eric Williams
Rose Dawson	Jeffrey Murphy	Marc Williams
Kate Garvey	Sonia Price	

Excused Absent

William Chesley	Councilman Tim Lovain	Brian Orrenamaa
Gwendolyn Lewis	Gerald Mann	Margaret Walsh

Unexcused Absent

Carlos Suber

Officials

Julie Crawford

Staff

Ron Frazier

Deborah Warren

WELCOME

The meeting was opened by Chair Tammy Mann, who introduced the newly appointed CYFCC member, Natnael Adere. Mr. Adere, an 11th grade student at T. C. Williams, was welcomed by the members as they introduced themselves.

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF DRAFT NOVEMBER MINUTES

The motion to approve the November minutes was made by Gwen Mullins and seconded by Giselle Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Deborah Warren, in providing an update on the Youth Master Plan, reminded the group that Jonathan Leonberger was brought on board to assist with tracking the plan's progress, and that a consultant group has been identified to help with the prioritization of the strategies and action steps. In presenting Mr. Leonberger, Ms. Warren explained that his report was the result of comments received at the Executive Committee meeting on December 1 on an earlier draft. The members of the Executive Committee indicated that they felt that the draft report was too detailed and that they wanted a report that simply tells the status of the progress in implementing the goals. The revised report was shared with the members of the City and Schools Staff Group, which has responsibility for overseeing the Plan's implementation. Mr. Leonberger directed the members to a four page report, which contained graphs outlining the progress in implementing the Children and Youth Master Plan (CYMP) goals. The first graph summarized the progress in implementing the CYMP action steps by the goals, while the second one illustrated progress in implementing the strategies.

Glenn Hopkins commended staff for the report, noting that it was clear and concise. Ron Frazier added that Mr. Leonberger has developed a tracking system in Excel that will allow staff to track the progress of the plan down to the level of the 333 action items. Tammy Mann noted that the Commission was interested in tracking progress at a higher level, focusing in on the status of the implementation of the goals and connecting them to outcomes.

Mike Mackey asked how groups would align with the plan, and whether the progress was cataloging actions already being done or new initiatives that will result in change. In response, Dr. Mann and others noted that it will focus on transformation activities that will move the needle as well as track progress on activities that align with the plan and are already occurring.

On the subject of alignment, Gwen Mullins noted that it was important to reach out to groups that might not know about the plan. Anthony Smith asked who is responsible for the implementation and the timeline. In asking how information will bubble up to the Commission, Mr. Hopkins asked if it would be through the Implementation Monitoring Committee. He further asked if the Commission could receive monthly reports as opposed to quarterly ones. Staff responded that it would be difficult to provide monthly reports as it would put a strain on the City and community agencies that provide the updates necessary to produce monthly reports.

SELECTION OF TOP CYFCC PRIORITIES

Dr. Mann noted the previous presentations to the Commission on the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the ACHSO Needs Assessment should have generated thoughts on possible items the Commission should address. She further commented that the Commission has the responsibility of doing more than just the CYMP, but that they need to bring visibility to issues such as those outlined in the Plan. Mr. Hopkins added that focusing on a few specific initiatives would show the community what the Commission is doing. The meeting packet included five ideas identified by members of the Executive Committee. The Commission members were asked to review them and narrow the list down to one or two key issues.

Dr. Mann invited the members to comment on the suggested priorities before selecting two of them. Mr. Hopkins suggested No. 5, *Promoting Affordable Housing*, adding that it affects everything, including jobs. Joyce Rawlings added that housing also impacts such educational issues as redistricting.

Mike Mackey commented that he felt that No. 4, *Supporting Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Youth*, was important, noting that it relates to the issue of family reunification. Kenallee Walker and Natnael Adere supported Joyce Rawlings' comment when she cited the International Academy as an example of how the community sometimes focuses on cultural diversity at the expense of other groups. Jeffrey Murphy asked if No. 3, *Understanding Equity*, only relates to education. Responding to the answer that it did not have to relate only to education, Mr. Hopkins offered a motion to remove the words "in education" from the description of No. 3 to make it more expansive. Eric Williams suggested that that No. 5, *Promoting Affordable Housing*, also impacts young professionals. Mr. Williams also supported removing the words *in education* from No. 3 so that it could encompass No. 5. Ms. Mullins commented that No. 3 could be the *umbrella* issue. Mr. Hopkins suggested that No. 3 could lead the community to a discussion on the meaning of equity. Mark Williams agreed saying that this could include a discussion of what the different communities need.

The motion proposed by Mr. Hopkins to remove the words *in education* from the description of No. 3 to make it more expansive, was seconded by Gisselle Brown. Mr. Mackey asked if the group had decided not to vote by using the ballots. Dr. Mann responded that in the wake of the ensuing discussion that she had forgotten that the members had been given ballots.

Councilman John Chapman suggested that the Commission identify specific equity issues it wants to focus on, e.g., housing, education, health, wage, and jobs, especially older youth. Alternately, Mr. Hopkins felt that it would be good to allow the community to define the issue and identify the challenges. Sonia Price advocated for leaving the education language in No. 3. In response to Mr. Mackey's concern that the Commission could get some pushback from the community dialog, Dr. Mann said that the Commission should shed light, hear dialogue and raise the level of consciousness on issues.

Reversing his original motion, Mr. Hopkins suggested that the group leave the words "in education" as part of the focus of Recommendation No. 3. Mr. Williams suggested that part of the focus could be on how youth are faring post-high school education. Echoing comments by some of the other Commissioners, Mr. Murphy suggested that the equity issue go beyond education.

The final motion to adopt Recommendations No. 3, deleting the language regarding education, and No. 5, passed on vote of nine in favor and four opposed. Consequently, the Commission adopted to undertake the following two recommendations:

3. Understanding equity – interest and attention to matters of equity ~~in education is~~ are increasingly ~~an~~ issues discussed in communities across the country. Explore what this means and how it shows up in our community; and, explore how our understanding of this issue should affect how we serve children, youth and families across public and private institutions.
5. Promoting Affordable Housing – lack of affordable housing affects a broad range of the City's population and impacts their access ~~to~~ appropriate human services. Explore public policy options to promote and sustain affordable housing.

A discussion of how these issues will be discussed will occur at the January meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Dr. Mann noted that the committee, which is still without a Chair but has several strong members, will continue to follow the City and ACPS budget processes and advocate for Commission priorities. Deborah Warren, commenting on a conference where the issue of dedicated funding for children and youth initiatives was discussed, said that she would share the conference materials with the Committee.

Advocacy – Glenn Hopkins, Committee Chair, noted that the committee's report was included in the meeting package, and requested that the Commission accept the report as it was presented.

Research & Data – Kendallee Walker, Committee Chair, noting that the committee's work was on hold until the Commission adopted its priorities, said that now that they have selected their priorities, the committee will begin working with these recommendations.

Outreach & Membership – Rose Dawson reported that they are in process of checking known Commission vacancies with those being advertised by the City Clerk’s office. The Commission has eight vacancies.

Implementation and Monitoring – Given the presentation by Jonathan Leonberger, Ms. Mullins noted that their committee report had already been given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Frazier, in reminding the members that the Youth Council is one of the CYFCC standing committees outlined in the ordinance, announced that Beth Lovain had been selected to fill the stipend position of Youth Council sponsor. He noted that, working with Kendallee Walker, Ms. Lovain has already has begun the process of rebuilding the Council and recruiting members.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.